

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Elizabeth Lowry House Survey Number: CARR-656

Project: Westminster Bypass (MD 140) Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

This property was determined eligible for the NR by MHT letter dated 4/27/1994.

" We do not have enough knowledge to determine that the property is not important for its association with Black history in Carroll County. The house itself no longer conveys much of a sense of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century structure which would have been associated with Elizabeth Lowry. However, if there are significant archeological resources related to that period on the property, the house and archeological resources would be eligible together.

In addition, we believe the property is a contributing resource in the Loop Rural Historic District."

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, Cultural Resources Group Leader, SHA, June 1993

Beth Hannold  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
Bek \_\_\_\_\_ 5/23/97  
Reviewer, NR program \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings; Site

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single dwelling

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Elizabeth Lowry House and Site Survey Number: CARR 656/18CR226 ✓

Project: MD140 Westminster Bypass Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name E. Hannold Date April 1994

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Completion of the Phase II archeological investigation of the Elizabeth Lowry site (CARR 656/18CR226) enables the comprehensive National Register evaluation of this resource as a whole, considering its above and below ground components. The Elizabeth Lowry property includes a standing dwelling and associated archeological resources representing the property's occupation and use from the mid 19th c. to the present. The property is located within the Roop Rural Historic District, a National Register eligible district important for its representation of the historic agricultural character and landscape of Carroll County from the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Trust has previously stated that the Elizabeth Lowry property is a contributing resource of the Roop Rural Historic District (prior correspondence dated 27 April 1994).

In 1839, the property was purchased by Elizabeth Lowry, a free African American woman, who built a log dwelling on the parcel. The original dwelling likely survives as the two room log core of the existing structure. A mid 19th century, two story frame addition to the west of the log section also appears to date to Lowry's tenure. Lowry occupied the property, constructing a second log dwelling on the parcel, until her death in 1868 when the property was sold to John D. Roop (a member of the prosperous Roop farm family associated with the Roop Rural Historic District). At one point Lowry's household included her daughter's large family and, at another, two apparently unrelated black women. Rural tenants likely resided in the Lowry dwellings during the late 19th and into the first quarter of the 20th century; research to date has not yet been able to determine the identity of those tenants.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: "Phase II Archeological Investigations of the Drechsler (18CR224) and Elizabeth Lowry (18CR226) Sites, MD 140 Westminster Bypass, Carroll County, Maryland," MHT inventory form CARR 656, and SHA letter to the Trust dated 17 May 1996

Prepared by: John Milner Assoc., SHA and Richard D. Meyer (MHT Historic Sites Surveyor)

Elizabeth J. Cole (archeology) and Elizabeth Hannold (structures) August 15, 1996  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

John D. Roop Reviewer, NR program 8/19/96 Date

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
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- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: site, building

Historic Environment rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): rural dwelling owned and occupied by free black woman, later 19th c. tenant occupation

Known Design Source: none

Elizabeth Lowry House and Site  
Internal NR-Eligibility Review Form  
cont.

The Elizabeth Lowry House (CARR 656) represents a rare, documented example of a dwelling constructed for and occupied by free blacks in mid 19th century Carroll County. Further architectural investigation, in conjunction with the documentary evidence and archeological findings, could provide significant information about the construction and evolution of the building and the building habits and lifeways of the mid 19th century free blacks in Carroll County. The present appearance of the house is itself of interest, as an unusual composite reflecting nearly a century of vernacular architectural history. The c. 1839 log section is flanked to the west by the mid 19th century, two story frame addition and these two sections are joined by a single story porch. To the east of the log section is a transverse block of frame and brick which dates to the early 20th century and displays a combination of Queen Anne and Colonial and Classical Revival elements. Details on the earlier log and frame section, such as the paired windows, apparently date to this last construction period and serve to tie the two sections together.

The Phase II archeological research identified several intact features and recovered over 6,700 artifacts (dating from the 1840s to the present) from the site. Testing identified a stone lined privy, a brick well house foundation, fieldstone path, planting feature, and a 16 ft. by 26 ft. cellar hole. The cellar hole likely represents the second log dwelling, constructed by Lowry c. 1865, which burned by the 1890s. The cellar contains fire debris and subsequent destruction and fill deposits, with a stratum including large quantities of artifacts dating from the fourth quarter of the 19th c. (likely associated with the last residents of the burned dwelling).

In our opinion, the Elizabeth Lowry property, including structure CARR 656 and archeological site 18CR226, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C and D not only as a contributing resource of the Roop Rural Historic District, but also as an individual historic property. Given the parcels' early origins as the residence of a free black woman landowner in the mid-19th century, the property represents a resource type that is not well represented or examined in the architectural, archeological, and historical record. The property's later 19th century tenant occupation also reflects a relatively undocumented segment of the county's rural community. The combined architectural and archeological components provide a complementary and unusual opportunity to yield important information concerning the lifeways of free black women landowners and rural tenants during the 19th c. in Carroll County.

CARR-656  
Elizabeth Lowry House  
vicinity of Westminster, Maryland  
public (restricted)

1839;  
m. 19th c.;  
e. 20th c.

The Elizabeth Lowry House consists of three major parts: a central two story log block flanked on the west by a two story frame addition and on the east by a 2½ story frame transverse block with Queen Anne and Classical Revival detailing. The house is an interesting composite reflecting nearly a century of vernacular architectural history. Between 1944 and 1954 the building served as meeting space for the Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Elizabeth Lowry House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

630 Hughes Shop Road

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Maryland State Department of Transportation  
 NAME State Highway Administration (Office of Real Estate) Telephone #: (301) 383-4145

STREET &amp; NUMBER

501 St. Paul Place

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

 VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code  
Maryland 21202**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE Registry of Deeds, ETC Carroll County Courthouse Libers #: Folio #:  
 condemnation in Circuit Court

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE  
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

200-656

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Elizabeth Lowry House is located on the NE side of Taneytown Pike (Maryland 140) ca. 500' west of Hughes Shop Road and ca. 2½ miles NW of Westminster in Carroll County, Maryland.

The house appears to have been built in three major stages. The oldest section is a two story block, two cells wide and one deep, with a masonry foundation, a moderately pitched gable roof, and a pair of chimneys, which originally may have adjoined by the outside wall of each gable end. On the lower SE or principal facade a single door is just right of center, flanked on the right by a double hung sash window, and on the left, by a triple grouping of the same. The latter have a decorative rectilinear pane border in their upper lights and simplified pilaster-like surrounds, similar to the architrave which partially frames the door. The upper SW and NE facades each contain two regularly disposed 6/6 double hung sash windows. A single flight of stairs with winder is located inside the SE wall. Adjoining the NE facade is a single story frame addition with a shed roof, three windows, and a door.

The second major section appears to have been the two story frame, single cell block to the NW which continues the gable roof of the first. Windows, most of the 6/6 double hung sash type, are disposed as follows: on the SW, one on the upper left and one on the lower left (with a door on the lower right); on the NW, one in the attic, one on the upper middle and one on the lower middle; and on the NE, one on the upper middle.

Adjoining the SW facade of both the first and second stages is a concrete and wood porch supported by three slender square columns with simplified brackets. Walls are sheathed in weather boarding; (with German siding on the lower NE facade) the roof in sheets of metal.

The third major section, a 2½ story frame block with a masonry foundation, adjoins the first on the SE, its major axis perpendicular to both the first and second sections. There is no interior access between the two. The old roof was extended, forming a cross gable with the new. Gable ends are distinguished by cornice returns. An ersatz roof line, with eaves and cornice returns is intended to suggest a steeply sloping gambrel with a dormered second story. On the central SW facade is the principal door sheltered by a bell cast gable hood with brackets, and flanked by single windows, each with fifteen panes. Above and on axis with the door are second floor and attics windows, both of the 1/1 double hung sash type. There are three windows, one on the first floor, one on the second, and one in the attic, all similar and on axis. The lower SE facade is distinguished by two symmetrically disposed triple groupings similar to that of the first section, here framed by corbel-like brackets which

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

see continuation sheet

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900.	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1839; mid 19th c.; early 20th c. BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elizabeth Lowry House is an interesting composite reflecting nearly a century of vernacular architectural history. Although not appearing on the first detailed map of the area (Martenet, 1862), the log section probably was built ca. 1839 as a freeman's cottage. The NW frame section and porch appear to be of somewhat later date. The SE and most pretentious section, dating from the early twentieth century, borrows its formal characteristics from two high style sources: the window surrounds and decorative panes of art glass, brackets, and cornice returns (along with similar detail on the older section) recall the Queen Anne, while the quoins, bilaterally symmetrical composition, and suggestion of a gambrel roof with dormers, recall the Classical Revival, particularly, though not exclusively, the colonial tradition.

When Rev. William E. Roop acquired the property in 1923, it is likely that the buildings were incorporated into a church camp which also included other properties along Hughes Shop Road. The SE section of the house may have been built for the use of an aid society. Between 1944 and 1954 it served as meeting space for the Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren, until the congregation had completed an addition to its own building further east along Taneytown Pike.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CARR-656

see continuation sheet,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.91 A,

Quadrangle Name: New Windsor, Maryland  
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24 000  
UTM References: 18 325 170 43 84 380

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the point where the boundary between the former Lavinia C. Roop Wenger property and the former John D. Roop property meets the Taneytown Pike (Md 140), proceed NE 200' along said boundary, thence turning 90° NW, proceed 200', thence turning 90° SW, proceed 200', and from thence, turning 90° SE, proceed along said road 200' to the point of origin (see plat #28233).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard D. Meyer/Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

1980

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

7.

appear to support the ersatz roof. Centered above is a square, art glass window with a geometric pattern, flanked by paired 1/1 double hung sash windows. On the lower right side of the NW facade is another art glass window which faces a stair landing on the interior, while on the upper left side is another 1/1 double hung sash window. Lower facades are sheathed in brick distinguished by brick quions at the corners and around the door; upper facades in asphalt shingles. The roof is covered with tar paper.

Outbuildings include a five bay garage, two outhouses, a shed, and a spring house. None is architecturally or historically significant.

9.

Carroll County Land Records

Lake. Griffing and Stevenson, An Illustrated Atlas of  
Carroll County, Maryland, 1877, p. 24.

Martenet. Simon. J., Martenet's Map of Carroll County,  
Maryland, 1862.

Rinehart, Helen Roop, daughter of Rev. William E. Roop,  
interviews with author, Westminster, 30 April and  
12 May 1980.

State Highway Administration, plats # 27290. 28236.

-----, R/W file # 50089 (incl.  
floor plans of all buildings.

CARR-656  
Elizabeth Lowry House

Chain of Title

Phyllis E. Schneider to Lavinia C. Roop Wenger  
30 December 1958 299/517

Joyce E. Rinehart Fowler, et als., to Phyllis E. **Schneider**  
30 December 1958 299/515

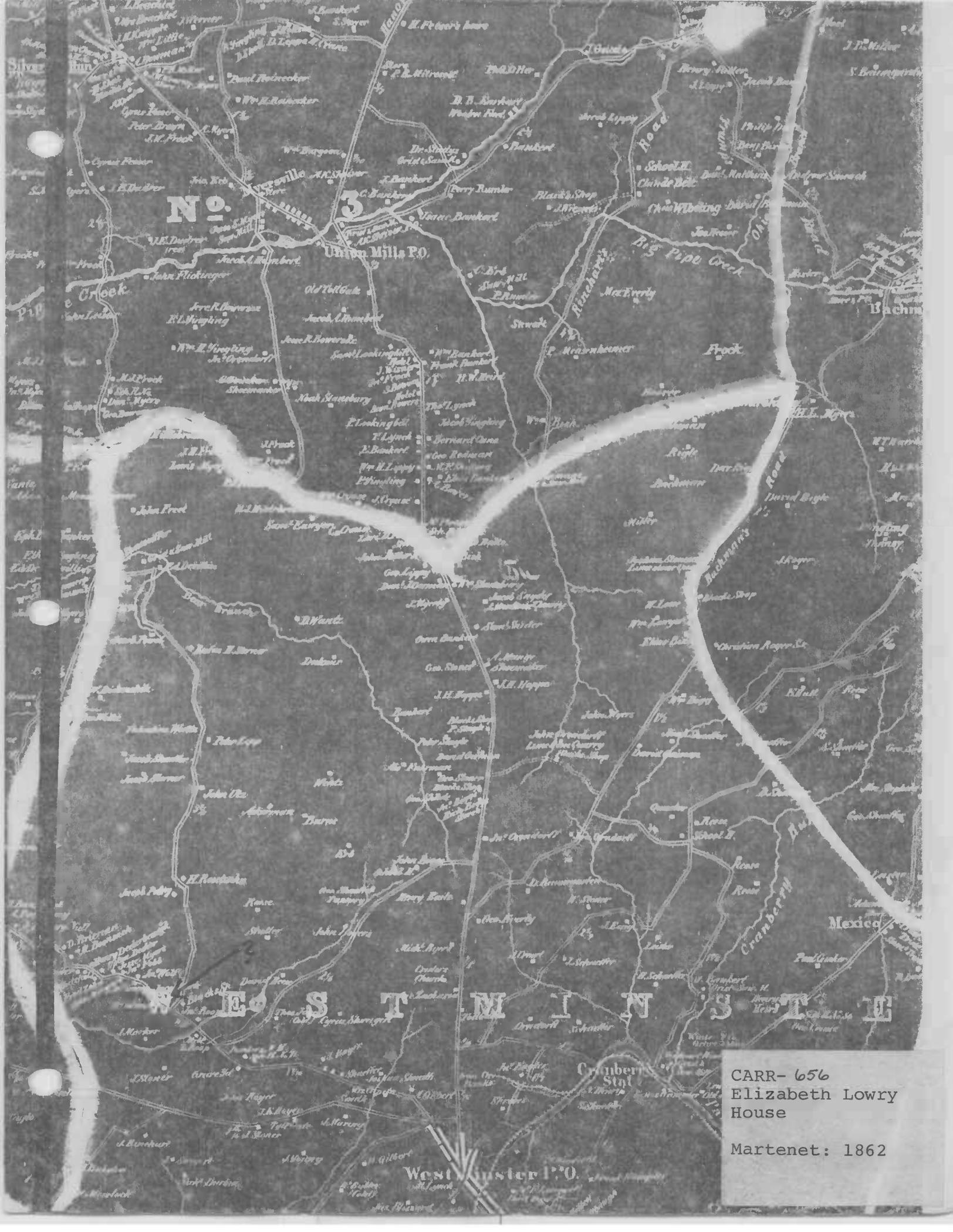
William E. Roop and Annie C. Roop to Joyce E. Rinehart  
and Lavinia C. Roop Wenger  
17 September 1951 EAS 210/225

John D. Roop to William E. Roop and Annie C. Roop  
31 January 1923 EMM jr. 141/275

William Lowery and Elizabeth A. Lowery to John D. Roop  
21 March 1868 WA McK 35/295

Elizabeth Lowery to James William Thomas Lowery  
will 30 April 1862 JMP 3/517

Henry Cassell to Elizabeth Lowry (colored)  
will 2 March 1839 WW 2/483



No. 3

Union Mills P.O.

West Chester P.O.

CARR- 656  
Elizabeth Lowry  
House

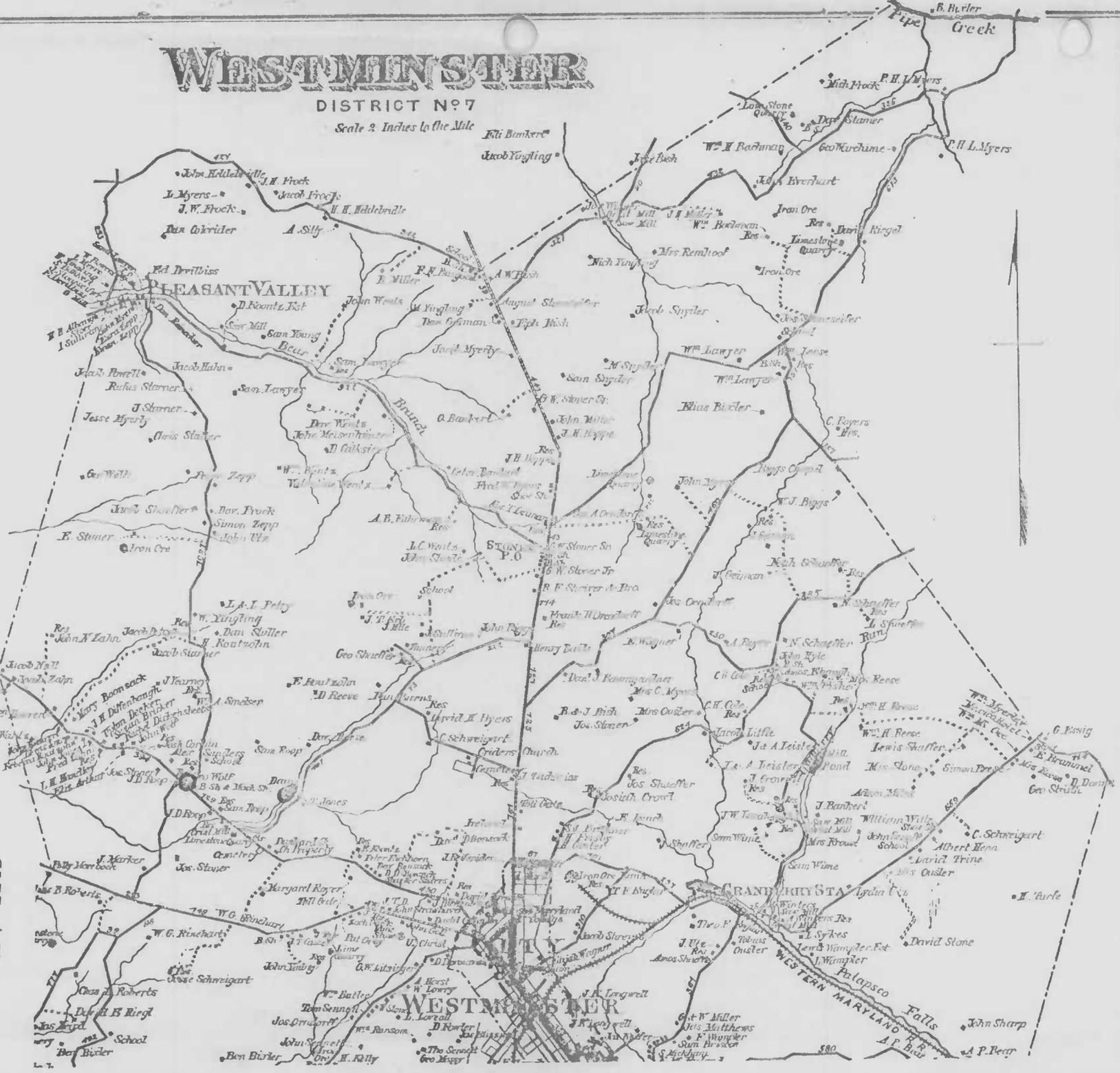
Martenet: 1862



# WESTMINSTER

DISTRICT No 7

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile



100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120

CARR-656  
Elizabeth Lowry  
House  
Lake: 1877



4985

23 M TO U.S. 140

4984

FENBY 2.9 M

23 M TO WESTMINSTER AND 32.1 M

Westminster Airport

Western Maryland College

WESTMINSTER

Swimming

Fountain Valley

CARR-656  
NEW WINDSOR  
QUADRANGLE

Roop Mill

Dunkard Ch

Radio Tower (WTR)

Branch

Copps

Wagners Mill

Wakefield Mill

Pipe

Frizzellong

Gaging Sta

Cem

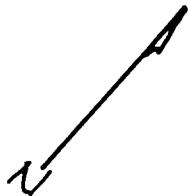
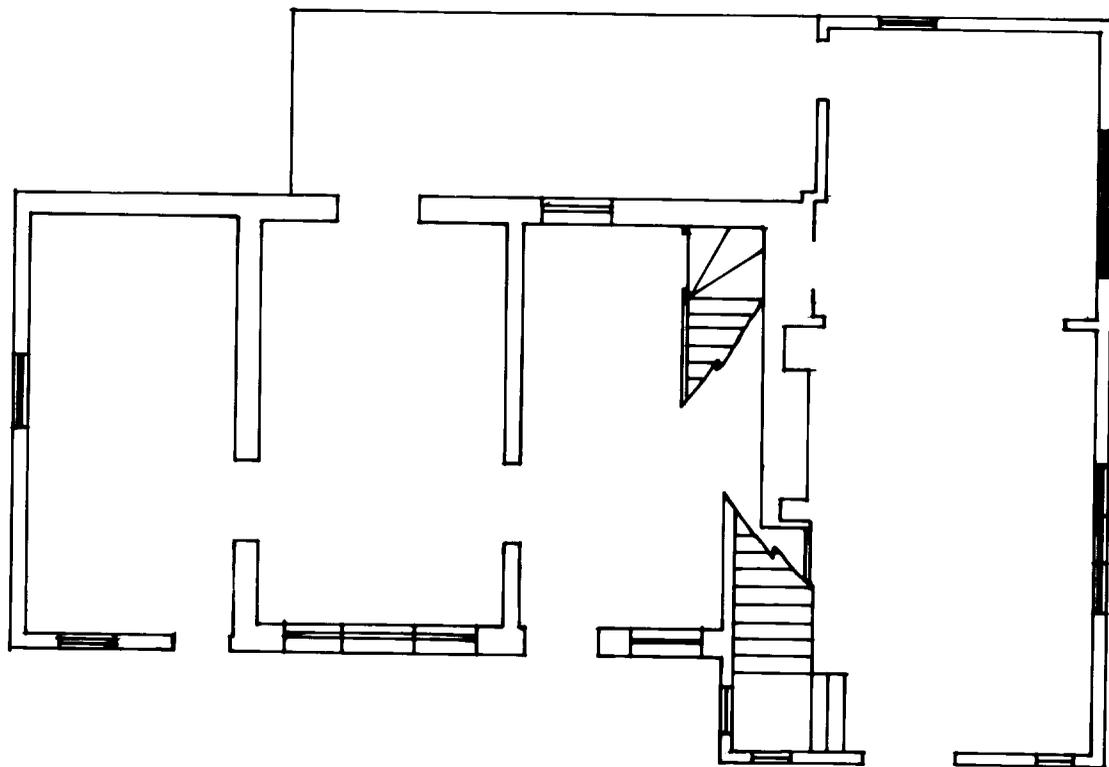
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LOWRY HOUSE  
CARR-656  
SHA # 50089

GROUND FLOOR PLAN      1/8" SCALE



CARR-656

FREDERICK MHT 4/80

ELIZABETH LOWRY

HOUSE NR. WESTMINSTER MD.

SH EL

1 of 4



CARR-656

ELIZABETH LOWRY

SU EL

ROF A

HOUSE

NR

H NEDAK  
WESTMINSTER

MD

MHT

4/80



CARR-656

ELIZABETH LOWRY

FR. S.

3054

HOUSE

AMEDIAK CRAFT 4/80

NR. WESTMINSTER MD.



CARR-656

ELIZABETH LOWRY

FR. W.

4 of 4

HNEBIAK QHT 4/80

HOUSE UR. WESTMINSTER IND.